THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER: G. Micklem, who was beaten by A. A. Duncan 4 and 3 in the semi-final, drives from the fourteenth tee during the tournament at Rye.

I have always felt it best to try building up the 85 per cent. part, for it can be seen

that the arms and shoulders play but a small part in building up to the maximum speed.

In the case of the average handicap golfer, he will be using much more body, i.e., shoulder and arm, and in an extreme case could actually be employing the reverse of these percentages, but would more than likely be 30 per cent. and 50 per cent.

I realised this many years ago and so began teaching the "Hit-and-stop" method as the quickest and best way of improving a player's percentages of power employed, for it was obvious that weak-wristed golfers called upon their "brute force" muscles to generate as much speed as possible to make up for actual lack of wrist speed. The "hit-and-stop" method whereby the left arm and side stopped at impact and the left wrist took the shock and allowed the club-head only to pass the ball, tested out just how good the wrists were at their job. Where, I think, the beginner starts off on the wrong foot in setting about attacking a golf ball, is that he imagines that he has to generate a movement in which, at the climax—i.e., the impact—his shoulders, arms and wrists will all be moving at their fastest. Here is the greatest mistake of all in golfing theory.

The Late Hit

For the shoulders and arms begin to generate the movement down, aided by the unwinding of the body, and this drag-through of the shoulder, the tug down by the arms, lead to a gradual speeding-up, but the release of the full power by the wrists which are kept cocked all this time is delayed until the player feels he can apply this 85 per cent. of the power, and get the net result at impact—the Late Hit.

During this attack on the ball, I have almost always found that there is a point which varies in every player, where the left shoulder checks momentarily to allow the "levering" which exists in a swing to take place. It is not correct to sweep "the whole lot" through.

Years ago the late P. A. Vaile and I discussed this action and he used the words "buffer action" as expressing best the sort of minute recoil in the swing which allowed the club-head to overtake the hands, for, if this did not happen, then the initial speed of the shoulders and arms would just take the hands through away ahead of the club-head. The shoulders, after the release of the 85 per cent. power by the wrists, are dragged through by the momentum of the club.

Seymour Dunn, amplifying this theme, says that the golfer is like a chain—no stronger than its weakest link. The obvious weak link in every golfer is the wrist, and for this reason we should not try to apply our maximum shoulder power, because the wrists cannot transmit it; they would collapse or give way under the strain, and the club-head trails behind and a slice results.

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